



BLUE EARTH COUNTY

COMMUNICATOR

Effectively & Efficiently Delivering Essential Services

SPRING & SUMMER 2012



Photo courtesy of Blue Earth County Historical Society

Historic Landmark Designation

The Mankato Heritage Preservation Commission has designated the Blue Earth County Historic Courthouse as one of two 2012 Mankato Heritage Preservation Landmarks for its historical significance to our community. In honor of the designation, the Historic Courthouse will be open for free public tours on Thursday, May 17 from 4 to 6 p.m. Tours will depart every half hour and are available on a first come, first serve basis. The Historic Courthouse was completed in 1889 and continues to remain an important County facility housing several departments including; Administration, Taxpayer Services, Finance, Physical Plant, University of Minnesota Extension and is where Blue Earth County Board Meetings continue to be held.

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THE COMMUNICATOR

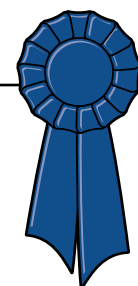
The Blue Earth County Communicator is published biannually to increase public awareness and involvement in county government.



For more information about the publication, or to submit questions and/or comments, contact:

Public Information
Blue Earth County Historic Courthouse
204 S. 5th St., Mankato, MN 56001

Phone 304-4491 – Fax 304-4344
info@co.blue-earth.mn.us



**Award-Winning
Publication**

by the National
Association of County
Information Officers

Redistricting Process Nearly Complete



WHAT'S NEW

Redistricting is the process of redrawing boundaries of election districts and is done throughout the United States following the completion of a census, which takes place once every ten years.

Lines are redrawn to evenly distribute population bases. 2012 Legislative Districts decided upon by the State were announced on February 21, 2012. It is now time for local areas throughout the State to ensure that population is evenly distributed throughout communities for election districts such as city wards, school districts, and commissioner districts. Blue Earth County is currently in the process of redistricting and will have finalized maps completed by the end of April. Visit the Blue Earth County website homepage at www.co.blue-earth.mn.us under quick links to view new redistricting maps which include county commissioner and city ward districts.

Community Farm Project Underway

By Jessica Beyer, Communications Manager & Business Analyst

Blue Earth County is initiating a new Community Farm project, along with program partners including Feeding Our Communities Partners (FOCP) and Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development. The goal of the Blue Earth County Community Farm is to provide fresh produce to benefit local hunger assistance programs through the support of community volunteers, local resources and grant funding. Blue Earth County Community Farm is modeled after a similar project in Multnomah County, Oregon, known as the Community Reaps Our Produce and Shares (CROPS) Program. A ground breaking ceremony was held last November to serve as a kickoff for the new pilot project. Project partners are in the midst of planning and seeking support of community members, businesses and agencies in preparation for the 2012 inaugural growing season.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY
Community FARM



while bringing our community together around an important local issue and providing those in need with fresh produce. Commissioners Will Purvis and Vance Stuehrenberg saw the success of such a program firsthand in Multnomah County and brought the idea back to our area, which creates a great opportunity for our residents," stated Blue Earth County Commissioner, Kip Bruender at the ground breaking ceremony. The Blue Earth County Community Farm site is at Weagel Park located on the Red Jacket Trail just off Highway 66 south of Mankato near Mount Kato. Weagel Park resides to the east of Highway 66 on Indian Lake Road and includes a gazebo and paved parking lot. ■

"We are incredibly excited to begin work on such an innovative project in our area that utilizes a unique collaboration among partner agencies

★ Now Open for the 2012 Season ★



**BLUE EARTH COUNTY
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS
WASTE FACILITY AND
PRODUCT REUSE CENTER**
651 Summit Avenue, Mankato

Will accept Household Hazardous Waste from Residents of
Blue Earth, Nicollet, Le Sueur, and Sibley Counties Only

2012 HOURS April-October

TUESDAYS
Noon to 6:00 PM
2ND SAT. of each Month
8 AM to 12:30 PM

MAY						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	1	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JULY						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

APRIL						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JUNE						
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

AUGUST						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

OCTOBER						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Blue Earth County Environmental Services
24-hour Hotline 507-304-4242
www.co.blue-earth.mn.us



For additional information regarding this project, to get involved or to make a donation, please contact Three Rivers RC&D at 345-4744 or visit www.FeedingOurCommunitiesPartners.org.

Safe and Easy Medical Waste Disposal

Disposing of certain medical wastes in Blue Earth County is easy for residents through two Blue Earth County programs.

In the first three and a half months of the new medication disposal program, Blue Earth County residents disposed of over 400 pounds of unwanted medicines.

A drop box is located in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office at the new Blue Earth County Justice Center. Residents can drop off all unwanted medications by simply placing them in the box. There is no need to show identification or fill out any forms.

The program is free and is a cooperative effort between Blue Earth

County Environmental Services, the Sheriff's Office and Xcel Energy's Wilmarth Power Plant.

County staff checks the box for items that are not allowed, such as mercury thermometers and sharps, then delivers the medications to the Wilmarth plant, where they are immediately destroyed with no measurable impact on the environment.

Blue Earth County also offers a safe disposal option for people with home sharps, such as syringes, lancets and needles. For a small fee, the Hy-Vee Pharmacy in downtown Mankato will take any size of container for disposal. The containers should be heavy plastic, and sharps should be secured inside.



For more information, call the Waste & Recycling Hotline at 304-4242 or visit the Blue Earth County website at www.co.blue-earth.mn.us.

Property Tax Statements and Valuation Notices

By Michael Stalberger, County Assessor



Blue Earth County property taxpayers received important information in the mail from the Taxpayer Services Department in late March. The county mailed nearly 29,000 tax statements and valuation notices in a combined mailing to save taxpayer dollars. The mailing is a step in the multi-year assessment process in Minnesota.

The tax statement is the 2012 tax bill for property owners. It is based on valuation and classification information determined in early 2011 and mailed to taxpayers at that time. Taxpayers should review the tax statement to understand the total tax amount due as well as the due dates. Taxpayers with more than one parcel of property will receive more than one tax statement, and each should be reviewed.

Please be sure to pay taxes by the dates listed on each statement to prevent penalties being added to your tax bill. If your property tax statement refers to an escrow account, please be aware that an escrow company was notified of your tax bill and is likely responsible for paying your taxes on your behalf. You should only submit payment if an escrow company is not responsible for taxes.

Valuation notices, the second item in the mailing, provide information regarding each taxable property's classification (the actual use of the property), its valuation, and any special program enrollment. The estimated market value is the county's estimate of what each property would likely sell for, and the taxable value is a calculated value used for tax

purposes. The value notice is the foundation for the property tax calculation process that will result in tax statements in 2013.

Please contact Blue Earth County Taxpayer Services with any questions at 304-4251 or by e-mail at taxhelp@co.blue-earth.mn.us. Taxpayer Service Specialists are available in the Historic Courthouse located at 204 S. 5th Street in Mankato weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Property information may also be obtained by visiting the county's website at www.co.blue-earth.mn.us and clicking on the property tax quick link on the homepage. Please note tax payments are now accepted online. ■

First Half of 2012 Real Estate Taxes Due May 15, 2012

Tax payments may be made in person at the Historic Courthouse located at 204 S. 5th Street in Mankato, or can be mailed to Blue Earth County Taxpayer Services, PO Box 3567, Mankato, MN 56002-3567. Online payments are also now accepted. Those wishing to use the new feature on the County's website should note that an e-check fee of \$1.49 per transaction and a credit card fee of 2.49 percent of the amount paid is applied to the transaction.

Taxpayers can use any of the following drop sites to make payments; Cub Foods 1800 Madison Avenue, Mankato, or Hy-Vee Downtown, 410 Riverfront Drive Mankato, or outside of the Historic Courthouse (on the Fourth Street side of the building).

Taxpayers can also make current year tax payments at the following banks in Blue Earth County; Community Bank in Vernon Center, MinnStar Bank in Lake Crystal and Good Thunder, Peoples State Bank in Madison Lake, Pioneer Bank in Mapleton, St. Clair State Bank in St. Clair and US Bank in Amboy. If taxes are paid at any of the bank locations, payments must be made during operating hours for that specific bank. Tax statements should be brought into locations to confirm correct tax amounts and better assist property owners.

There will be a penalty if full payment is not received on or before the due date, or for mailed payments that are postmarked after the due date.

Understanding the 2012 Property Tax Statement

Blue Earth County
Taxpayer Services
204 S. Fifth Street, PO Box 3567
Mankato, MN 56002-3567
507-304-4251
<http://www.co.blue-earth.mn.us>

PIN: ###.###.###.### AIN: _____
BILL NUMBER: 123456 LENDER: Bank Name (if applicable)
OWNER NAME: Blue Earth County Property Owner
PROPERTY ADDRESS: Blue Earth County
ADDRESS: Property Address
DESCRIPTION: Legal Description of Property

TAXPAYER(S):
Blue Earth County Property Tax Payer
Blue Earth County Property Address

2012 PROPERTY TAX STATEMENT

BILL TYPE: Real Property

YOUR PROPERTY TAX VALUES & CLASSIFICATION

Taxes Payable Year:	2011	2012
Estimated Market Value:	165,300	158,300
Improvements Excluded:		
Homestead Exclusion:	0	23,000
Taxable Market Value:	165,300	135,300
New Improvements/ Expired Exclusions:		
Property Classification:	Res Hold	Res Hold

\$\$\$ REFUNDS? You may be eligible for one or even two refunds to reduce your property tax. Read the back of this statement to find out how to apply.

Taxes Payable Year:

	2011	2012
1. Use this amount on Form M1PR to see if you are eligible for a property tax refund. File by August 15. If this box is checked, you owe delinquent taxes and are not eligible. Use these amounts on Form M1PR to see if you are eligible for a special refund.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Property taxes before credits	\$1,702.00	\$1,710.00
3. Credits that reduce property taxes		
4. Agricultural market value credit	\$0.00	\$0.00
5. Other credits	\$0.00	\$0.00
5. Property taxes after credits	\$1,702.00	\$1,710.00
6. County - BLUE EARTH COUNTY	\$607.75	\$594.65
7. City or Town - CITY OF MANKATO	\$570.16	\$595.24
8. State General Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00
9. School District - MANKATO SCHOOL DIST #77	\$357.38	\$346.32
10. Special Taxing Districts	\$163.95	\$171.12
11. Non-school voter approved referenda levies	\$2.75	\$2.67
12. Total property tax before special assessments	\$0.00	\$0.00
13. Special Assessments on Your Property	\$0.00	\$0.00
14. YOUR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	\$1,722.00	\$1,730.00
Pay this amount no later than 05/15/2012		
Pay this amount no later than 10/15/2012		
Total Property Tax for 2012	\$1,730.00	\$1,730.00
2nd Half Tax Amount	\$865.00	\$865.00
Penalty, Interest, Fee Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00
Amount Paid	\$0.00	\$0.00
2nd Half Total Amount Due	\$865.00	\$865.00
Balance Good Through	10/15/2012	05/15/2012

2 2nd Half Payment Stub - Payable 2012
Detach and return this stub with your 2nd half payment.
To avoid penalty, pay on or before October 15, 2012.

PIN: ###.###.###.### AIN: _____
BILL NUMBER: 123456
TAXPAYER(S): Blue Earth County Taxpayer
Blue Earth County Address

PAID BY _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Blue Earth County
Taxpayer Services
204 S. Fifth Street, PO Box 3567
Mankato, MN 56002-3567

The tax information shown above has been sent to an escrow agent. Pay from this copy only if an escrow agent is not responsible to pay. Your canceled check is proof of your payment.

1 1st Half Payment Stub - Payable 2012
Detach and return this stub with your 1st half payment.
To avoid penalty, pay on or before May 15, 2012.
If your tax is \$100.00 or less, pay the entire tax by May 15, 2012.

PIN: ###.###.###.### AIN: _____
BILL NUMBER: 123456
TAXPAYER(S): Blue Earth County Taxpayer
Blue Earth County Address

PAID BY _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Blue Earth County
Taxpayer Services
204 S. Fifth Street, PO Box 3567
Mankato, MN 56002-3567

The tax information shown above has been sent to an escrow agent. Pay from this copy only if an escrow agent is not responsible to pay. Your canceled check is proof of your payment.

The Tax Statement is based on the Jan. 2, 2011 assessment for taxes payable year 2012. Payable year 2011 information is for comparison purposes. Estimated Market Value is our office's estimate of what your property would likely sell for as of the Jan. 2, 2011 assessment. The Homestead Exclusion is an additional reduction in value for property occupied by owners or qualifying relatives. Taxable Market Value is the value used to calculate taxes.

Use this information to see if you are eligible for Minnesota's Property Tax Refund. More information is on the reverse side of the statement.

This section lists your property tax and any credits your property may receive. Properties that received a residential homestead credit in the past now receive an exclusion in the value & classification section above.

The tax is then listed by taxing authority. Current and prior year information is provided for comparison.

Special assessments are not "taxes" - they are charges for special projects/services or are other fees added to your tax bill. They are added to your property taxes to result in your total tax amount to be paid in 2012.

If the taxes are more than \$100, they are divided into two halves. Pay by the due date listed for each half. Follow the payment instructions to submit payment or pay online.

If an escrow company is responsible for paying your taxes, a note will be listed here as shown. Only submit payment if an escrow company is not responsible for paying your property taxes.

Additional Plastics Now Recyclable



PUBLIC WORKS

As of January, 1, 2012, food and beverage containers numbers one through seven will now be accepted for recycling along with current bottles that are being taken. The only exceptions will be no styrofoam and no film plastic, no matter what the number of plastic.

“Recycling numbers have been confusing to recyclers for a long time,” stated Jean Lundquist, Blue Earth County Recycling Coordinator. “Bottles with a neck and shoulders labeled with either a 1 or 2 were acceptable, but other containers such as ice cream buckets, were not. The difference in plastic comes from how it is manufactured and the differing additives needed for it to hold various shapes. Waste Management, Blue Earth County’s contractor at the Recycling Center, now has new equipment and markets in places that will allow the additional items to be recycled.”

The Blue Earth County Recycling Center is located at 741 Waseca Avenue, Le Hillier and is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a 24-hour drop-off collection site available. A list of materials accepted at the facility and information on materials either free to recycle or those which require disposal fees are listed under Environmental Services on the Blue Earth County website at www.co.blue-earth.mn.us.

For more information contact the Waste & Recycling Hotline at 304-4242.



Board Meeting Packets

Packets for Board of Commissioner meetings and work sessions are no longer in printed form. The County board has decided to go paperless and view packet information electronically during meetings. Electronic packets are available for download through the County website on the Board of Commissioners page and are displayed on television monitors for the public during meetings. Visit www.co.blue-earth.mn.us/board/meetings.php.

2012 Construction Projects

By Alan Forsberg, County Engineer and Public Works Director

Road Projects

CSAH 12 EXTENSION/TH 14 INTERCHANGE IN FINAL STAGE FOR COMPLETION

This summer a bridge over TH 14, interchange ramps and a paved road from CSAH 3 to CSAH 17 will be constructed completing the CSAH 12 Extension project.

This is the last stage in a large, long term project to extend CSAH 12 from the airport south, over TH 14 with interchange ramps, to CSAH 17 (Madison Avenue extended east, or old TH 14). The new road will relieve traffic from TH 22 in the River Hills Mall area, improve safety, and encourage economic development.

The project is a partnership effort of Blue Earth County as lead agency, MnDot, and the City of Mankato.

The long term vision is to extend the road from CSAH 17 south to TH 83 creating a north/south bypass of Mankato.

CSAH 60/82 ROUNDABOUT PROJECT

The intersections of Victory Drive with CSAH 82 going east and Victory Drive with Stadium Road going west have become increasingly congested and hazardous as traffic has grown. To alleviate these problems, these two intersections will be combined into one modern roundabout intersection this summer. The project will also provide a trail and sidewalk to serve bicyclists and pedestrians.

This is the area’s first roundabout. Studies have shown that roundabouts improve safety and reduce delays for motorists.

Both intersections will be closed to traffic this summer and detours posted. The goal is to finish the project and open the roads prior to school starting in the fall.

CSAH 26 AT EAGLE LAKE

CSAH 26 from CSAH 12 south of the airport to Madison Lake was recently rebuilt – except for the most hazardous section on the north side of Eagle Lake.

After several years of delay in obtaining a MnDNR permit, work will proceed on the section this summer.



FUTURE PLANNING FOR CSAH 17 FROM MANKATO TO EAGLE LAKE

Plans are being prepared to reconstruct CSAH 17, which is the easterly extension of Madison Avenue, from Mankato to Eagle Lake. This was formerly TH 14 before the new TH 14 expressway was constructed. Funding will be primarily a combination of State turn back and County State Aid Highway funds.

The roadway will be four lanes with turning lanes from TH 22 to the new CSAH 12 extension, then two lanes with turning lanes to Eagle Lake. It will include reconstruction of the section through Eagle Lake. A bicycle trail from Mankato into Eagle Lake will run adjacent to the road.

Intersections with Carver Road, CSAH 12, CSAH 86 and CSAH 56 will be roundabouts.

Construction is planned for 2013, assuming all approvals, permits, and funding can be obtained.

Bridge Projects

With 125 bridges on the County Highway system, a regular program of bridge replacements is needed to keep our bridges safe and accommodate heavy loads and increased traffic. State and Federal bridge funds are used wherever available to assist in funding these projects.


Bridge replacement plans are currently in place for bridges on CSAH 46 on the south County line, CSAH 14 over the Big Cobb River, CSAH 40 west of Amboy, and County Roads 140 and 151. ■

For more information on road projects please contact the Blue Earth County Highway Department at 304-4025.

Red Jacket Trestle Receives Finishing Touches

By Alan Forsberg, County Engineer and Public Works Director

Finishing touches are being completed on the Red Jacket Trail trestle over the LeSueur River south of Mankato. The new concrete pier formed to resemble the original quarried limestone pier is being dyed to match the original rock color. In addition, concrete repairs are being completed and steel bands placed on the concrete sections on top of the piers. The Red Jacket Trail will remain open during this work,

with some parking restrictions at the LeSueur River access. The new concrete pier was needed due to damages from the fall flood of 2010, when flood borne debris damaged the pier so badly it collapsed as the steel bridge span was being salvaged. Funding for the restoration and preservation project is by Federal and State FEMA programs. 

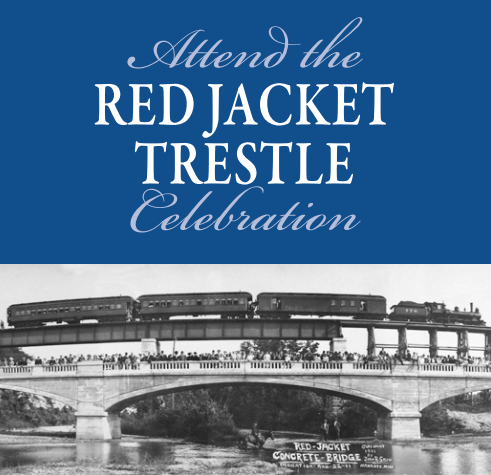


Photo courtesy of Blue Earth County Historical Society

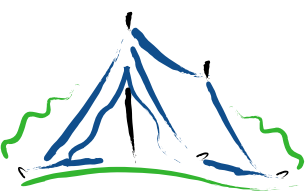
SATURDAY, MAY 19 - 10 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

Red Jacket Trail Park

Ride, Walk or Run out on the Red Jacket Trail to the historic trestle and celebrate the re-opening of an area landmark. The Blue Earth County Historical Society will be on hand to share details on the historical significance of the Red Jacket Trestle, and author Julie Schrader will be selling and signing her book, History of the Red Jacket Valley. The event is hosted by the Greater Mankato Bike and Walk Advocates.


ACTIVITIES
FOR ALL AGES,
INFORMATIONAL
DISPLAYS AND
REFRESHMENTS!

Summer Activities At Blue Earth County Parks!

PARKS	ACTIVITIES																			
	Tent Camping Sites	Mobile Camping Sites	Electrical Hook-ups	Bathhouse	Boat/Canoe Launch	Canoe Rental	Drinking Water	Dump Station	Fire Rings/Grills	Fishing	Fishing Dock	Horseshoe Pits	Interpretive Center/ Log Cabin	Nature Trail	Paddleboat Rental	Picnic Shelters	Picnic Tables	Playground	Primitive Restrooms	Resident caretakers
BRAY (102.3 ACRES)	10	33	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
DALY (92.41 ACRES)	15	71	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
DUCK LAKE (31.66 ACRES)				•	•	•	•		•	•					•	•	•	•	•	•
LAKE GEORGE (4.2 ACRES)					•				•	•	•						•	•		
RAPIDAN (38.69 ACRES)	20				•		•		•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	
RED JACKET TRAIL PARK (4 ACRES)					•		•		•	•				•		•				
WILLIAMS NATURE CENTER (65 ACRES)							•						•	•					•	
INDIAN LAKE (120 ACRES)														•						
SCHIMEK (30 ACRES)									•	•				•		•				
WILDWOOD (28 ACRES)										•										
EAGLE LAKE (1 ACRE)					•					•								•		
LONE PINE (1.4 ACRES)					•					•										
HUNGRY HOLLOW STOP (4.2 ACRES)					•				•							•				
WATONWAN STOP (7 ACRES)					•				•	•						•	•			

CAMPING RESERVATIONS: Camping reservation systems are available at Bray and Daly Parks. Reservations are taken by phone, online or in person at the park for which the reservation is requested. Park personnel will take reservations from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. A deposit is required to hold each camping site.

Daly Park:
11056 571st Lane
Mapleton, MN 56065
507-524-3000

Bray Park:
2214 Oriole Rd.
Madison Lake, MN 56063
507-243-3885

Women Veterans Health Care Info

Women are serving in the military in greater numbers than ever before. Women comprised 12 percent of the total forces serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. The Veterans Administration Health Care System recognizes their service and provides a comprehensive array of health benefits and services for them. These services and types of care include:

- Primary Care:**
- General health care and counseling, disease prevention, nutrition counseling. Also, gender specific care, eg. cervical cancer screens, breast cancer screens (mammograms), etc.
 - Mental health care includes assessment, evaluation and treatment for issues such as depression, mood and anxiety disorders, PTSD, and sexual trauma.
 - Military sexual trauma (MST). Women who may have experienced sexual harassment or sexual trauma can receive appropriate mental and physical health care for conditions resulting from MST. This care is free and confidential.

- Specialty Care:**
- Screening, treatment and management of chronic health conditions including: heart disease, diabetes, cancer, glandular disorders, osteoporosis, hepatitis, etc. A full range of specialty care is usually available.

At each VA Medical Center, the Program Manager is designated to advise and advocate for women veterans. She can help coordinate all the services needed, from primary care to specialized care or mental health services.

For further information on VA Health Benefits and assistance with enrolling for health care benefits, visit the Blue Earth County Veterans Service Office, 410 S. 5th St, Mankato, MN 56001 or call 304-4246.





Severe Weather Safety Away From Home

By Brenda Olmscheid, Assistant Emergency Management Director

A detailed home tornado safety plan won't help you much if you're away from home when a tornado threatens. It is important to think about what you will do if a tornado threatens you while you're away from home - at work, church, school, while shopping, dining out, on vacation or participating in outdoor activities. The danger is higher when you're away from home, when you may be unfamiliar with the area and away from your usual sources of weather information. It is important for business owners, and those responsible for safety in all types of public buildings and venues, to think about and plan for tornado safety for all employees, occupants and potential visitors.

TYPE OF NOTICE	WHAT IT MEANS	YOU SHOULD...
Hazardous Weather Outlook	Will there be severe thunderstorms or tornadoes today or tonight, or several days from now?	If severe weather is expected, check back for later forecasts, information and possible watches.
Tornado or Severe Thunderstorm Watch	There's a good chance of large hail, damaging winds, and maybe even a tornado in the watch area within the next few hours.	If the watch includes your county, or one close to you, you should really start to pay attention to what's going on. If there are storms nearby, check your weather source to see if there are warnings.
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	A storm with large damaging hail and/or damaging winds has been seen, or indicated on radar.	Listen closely to the warning - it will tell you what exactly to expect (hail size and wind speed).
Tornado Warning	A tornado has either been seen, or there are signs on radar that a tornado could be forming.	If you're in the warning area, NOW is the time to put your safety plan into action.

Hotels and Motels

Think about tornado safety in hotels and motels. Some lodging establishments have safety plans for guests. Some establishments suggest guests seek shelter in hallways. However, people should remember to avoid open hallways - hallways that have doors and/or windows on either end. These can become wind tunnels and send debris flying down the corridor. Interior bathrooms and closets near the center of the building may be good shelters in this situation. Again, wherever you are forced to seek shelter in a tornado, cover up with pillows, heavy blankets or whatever you can find.

Outdoor Activities - Campgrounds, RV Parks, Sporting Events, Fairs, Festivals

Being exposed outdoors is one of the worst places to be in a tornado or severe thunderstorm. Being involved in outdoor activities can sometimes put you at increased risk, because you're exposed outdoors and possibly in an unfamiliar area. Organized outdoor events, including sporting events at all times of the year, should have weather safety plans. People at large sporting events are especially vulnerable because of the difficulties involved in moving large numbers of people. Event coordinators or managers should have a detailed severe weather safety plan in place and practice it. People at large outdoor gatherings or events should listen when severe weather information is conveyed and follow instructions if a safety plan is put into action.

Public Buildings - Malls, Stores, Restaurants, Hospitals

The same basic tornado safety guidelines apply in any public building, whether it's your local shopping mall, a hospital or nursing home, a grocery or discount store, a church, a hotel, convenience store, truck stop or restaurant.

GET IN: put as many walls between you and the outside as possible

GET DOWN: if you can't get underground, get as low as possible

COVER UP: use whatever you have to protect your head and body from flying objects

If a tornado threatens, you should not leave in your car! However, being in a sturdy building is most likely safer than being in your vehicle on the road if a tornado hits. Stay calm and try to find a safe shelter wherever you are. ■

Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week took place April 16-20, 2012. Each year the event is designed to remind individuals, families, businesses, schools and institutions that it's essential to plan ahead for Minnesota's severe spring/summer weather.

Blue Earth County Emergency Management recommends assembling an emergency disaster kit in advance. If you determine you need to take shelter, be sure every family member puts on hard-soled footwear and take your emergency disaster kit with you.

An emergency disaster kit should contain:

- Non-perishable food items and water
- Manual can opener if your kit contains canned food
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Change of clothing for each family member
- First-aid kit
- Prescription medications
- Flashlight and batteries
- NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather radio
- Set of car and house keys
- Whistle to signal for help
- Identification and a credit card or cash
- Any specific items you may need for children such as diapers or formula

Additional supplies and equipment may be necessary for family members with disabilities or medical conditions. Don't forget your pets will also need supplies, including food, water, collars and leashes. For smaller animals you may want to have a crate or a cage to help keep them safe and close.

For more information, contact Blue Earth County Emergency Management at 304-4806.



For more information, please contact Blue Earth County Emergency Management at 304-4806.



Blue Earth County Shoreland Buffer Initiative

By Julie Conrad, Land Use and Natural Resources Planner

Blue Earth County is working in partnership with the Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on a new initiative to ensure there are 50-foot, vegetated buffers along all rivers, streams and lakes in agricultural areas. This 50-foot buffer is required by County Ordinance and State Rules.

The County Environmental Services Department is reviewing more than 3,000 parcels of land in shoreland to determine compliance with the buffer

standard and is in the process of notifying owners of cropland that appears to lack a 50-foot buffer. The County estimates there are 400 property owners who need to establish a combined total of 365 buffer acres. The total buffer area needed by each owner ranges from .1 to 10.7 acres.



Notification letters are being sent out in small batches every two to three weeks. The notification process should be completed by the end of 2012. Those who receive letters are asked to contact the SWCD to discuss steps toward compliance.

The SWCD is a partner for this project because they have experience working with landowners to establish buffers and other best management practices, and they have knowledge of financial incentive programs available.

The project results overall have been positive. Since the notification process started in August of 2011, 104 landowners have contacted the SWCD and 86 are in the process of establishing buffers.

The County and SWCD received a Clean Water Fund grant from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment so SWCD staff can be devoted to working with landowners from July 2011 to December 2012 on this project. ■

Do you farm agricultural land in Blue Earth County? Do you want to add new field tile, replace existing field tile, or clean out a ditch? Be sure to call or stop in and talk to Stacey Feser or Tim Grant at the Environmental Services Department (304-4381) to make sure that you will not violate any Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Rules.

Federal (i.e. Swampbuster - 1985) and State (i.e. Wetland Conservation Act - 1991) rules were enacted to address the draining and filling of wetland areas. Both sets of laws rely on the knowledge and actions of landowners to assure compliance with these requirements. It is important for agricultural producers to be aware of these regulations in order to limit their risk. It is important to note that just because you're in compliance with one program, it does not mean you're in compliance with the other.

Many wetlands do not contain standing water or are only saturated for part of the year, and may be difficult for landowners to identify. It is best to get the above-listed staff involved early so they can help you comply with the laws and prevent a project from potential additional costs or delays. Communication is key!

What should agricultural landowners do before starting a project in Blue Earth County?

1. Talk to your local USDA/NRCS office to ensure compliance with the Federal rules.
2. Talk to Blue Earth County Environmental Services to ensure compliance with State rules.
3. Submit the "Landowner Statement and Contractor Responsibility Form," which must be signed by the landowner and contractor doing the work. Contractors doing work that may impact a wetland are required to notify Blue Earth County Environmental Services. The form must be submitted prior to starting work and can be found at: http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/forms/Contractor_Responsibility.doc

Shoreland is:

- Land within 1,000 feet from the ordinary high water level of lakes
- Land within 300 feet from the ordinary high water level of rivers, streams and altered watercourses

Shoreland in Blue Earth County:

- 368 miles of rivers
- 186 miles of unnamed streams
- 43 lakes
- 6,129 Parcels of land in shoreland
- 3,122 parcels with cropland

Buffers required in Blue Earth County:

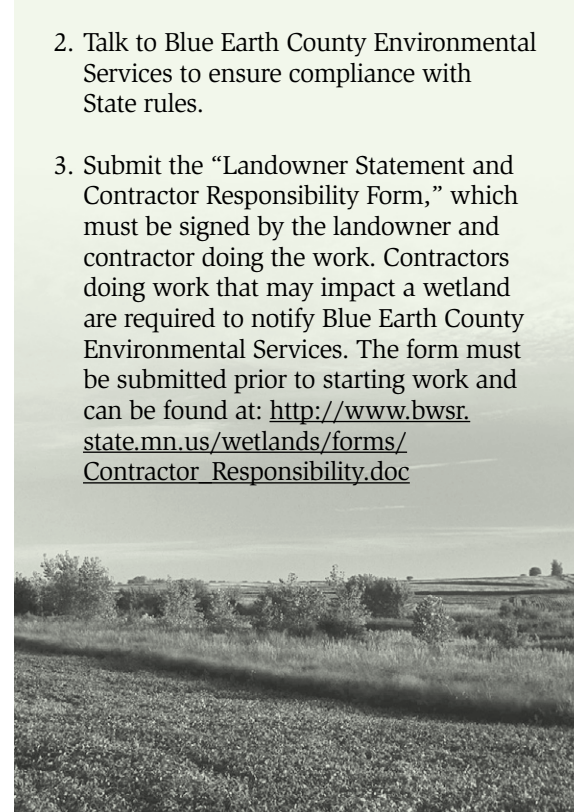
- 6,970 acres of buffers required in shoreland
- 94% already buffered
- Only 365 acres of buffer are needed for Blue Earth County landowners to be in compliance with rules



Shoreland Buffer Initiative Project Results

August 2011 through March 2012

- **Number of Landowners Notified: 195**
- **Number of Landowners who contacted the SWCD: 104**
 - 34 have enrolled or are in the process of enrolling in a State or Federal program easement
 - 52 are establishing a buffer on their own
 - SWCD marked boundary on 22 parcels
 - 5 are seeded and complete
 - 28 boundaries are scheduled to be marked in Spring or Fall 2012
- **Landowners who have not contacted SWCD: 91**
 - Mostly absentee landowners, with many out of state



The Friends of the Deep Valley Libraries Spring Book Sale



LIBRARY SERVICES

The Friends of the Deep Valley Libraries will host their annual spring book sale in Mankato as follows:

- * Friday, April 27
Members only from 1 - 4 p.m.
- * Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- * Monday, April 30, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- * Tuesday, May 1, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Summer Reading 2012

By Tim Hayes, Library Director



The Blue Earth County Library System kicks off its 2012 Summer Reading Program, "Dream Big... Read!" on June 4th in Mankato, Lake Crystal and Mapleton. Thanks to the generosity of key sponsor Taylor Corporation, and

the Friends of the Deep Valley Libraries, children ages 0 - 17 can earn prizes for time spent reading and enjoy fun auditorium programs twice weekly. Brand-new performers for 2012 include Mike Prestby, The Puppet Tellers, The Halvorson Family Band, Schiffelly Puppets and Arn Kind's Living-History Program. Encore presentations include the Minnesota Zoomobile, the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center, Mad Science of Iowa, Peter Bloedel and many more. See you at the libraries this summer! ■

Sign-up begins June 4

BRAND-NEW PROGRAMS

Mike Prestby
The Puppet Tellers
Halvorson Family Band
Schiffelly Puppets
Arn Kind's Living-History Program

OTHERS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Minnesota Zoomobile
University of Minnesota's Raptor Center
Mad Science of Iowa
Peter Bloedel
and much more!

Don't miss programs and prizes this summer at the Blue Earth County Libraries!

For more information, please call 304-4020.

Blue Earth County Library System Location Hours

MANKATO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mon. & Tues. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Wed. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

LAKE CRYSTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mon. 1 - 5:30 p.m.
Tues. noon - 5:30 p.m.
Wed. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Thurs. 1 - 5:30 p.m.
Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Sat. 9:30 a.m. - noon

MAPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tues. 1 - 5 p.m.
Wed. 10 a.m. - noon; 1 - 5 p.m.; 6 - 8 p.m.
Thurs. 1 - 5 p.m.
Fri. 1 - 5 p.m.; 6 - 8 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - noon

Sponsor a Fish at the Blue Earth County Library



Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg and Mary Styndl (pictured above with Tim Hayes, Library Director) are the first to sponsor fish as part of a new program to help keep the aquarium at the Library due to recent funding cuts.

Individuals and/or families are able to sponsor a fish for \$10 per year and receive a sponsorship certificate. Those interested in a fish sponsorship can contact the Blue Earth County Library in Mankato at 304-4020. The tank costs approximately \$700 per year to operate and due to budget constraints - sponsorships are needed!



E-books at the Library



As a reminder, Blue Earth County Library patrons are now able to download digital books onto their personal digital devices. Patrons can browse the collection on their home computer and download selections onto their Nook, Kindle (including Kindle Fire models), Sony Reader or similar device at any time or anywhere. To search titles, get download instructions and to obtain titles visit www.beclibrary.org for more information.

Blue Earth County Library System July - December 2011 Donations

MONETARY

GENERAL FUND

Blue Earth County Library System

- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Circulation Patrons
- William Stevens Memorial

SPECIAL DESIGNATION

Materials

Blue Earth County Library, Mankato

- Braithewaite Family
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Friends of the Deep Valley Libraries
- Linda Toner Memorial
- Marilyn Mason Memorial
- Rotary Club of Mankato
- Thomas & Sandra Kwolek
- Water Fountain Coins

Lake Crystal Public Library, Lake Crystal

- Crystal Study Club
- Dr. Donald Campbell
- Elizabeth Johnson
- Lake Crystal's G.R.A.C.E.
- Ruth Skobba
- Mary Ann Sandt Memorial

Mapleton Public Library, Mapleton

- Richard & Ann Kuball
- Mapleton Area Chamber of Commerce

Events

Blue Earth County Library, Mankato

- Friends of the Deep Valley Libraries

Mapleton Public Library, Mapleton

- Mapleton Area Chamber of Commerce

VOLUNTEERS

Blue Earth County Library, Mankato

- Betty Hoban
- Blue Earth County Community Health
- Brenda Pfarr
- Bryan Retsland
- City of Mankato Fire Station
- Gaoshoua Vang
- Greater Mankato Diversity Council
- ISD 77 Community Based Work Program
- Janinya Berglin
- Karin Bock
- Kip Bruender, Commissioner
- Marge Fitterer
- MN Valley Chorale
- New Country Minnesota 93, TJ & Lisa
- Nhi Nguyen
- Pam Leinberger
- Therapy Dogs International

Lake Crystal Public Library, Lake Crystal

- Crystal Study Club
- Lake Crystal Chamber of Commerce

Mapleton Public Library, Mapleton

- Lola Johnston

2011 LIBRARY BOARD

- Stephanie Miller, Chairperson
- Sue Morrow
- Carol Jones
- Will Purvis, Commissioner

IN-KIND

GENERAL FUND

Blue Earth County Library, Mankato

- Barnes & Noble
- Computer Technology Solutions

Lake Crystal Public Library, Lake Crystal

- Teri Thompson-Hobart

SPECIAL DESIGNATION

Materials

Blue Earth County Library, Mankato

- Abdo Publishing
- Adam Steinke
- Anika Cristwell
- Cedrick Langston, Author
- Daughters of American Revolution
- David and Doris Boyce
- Denise Moody
- Duluth Library
- Fran Roen
- Gena Zelenka
- Hometown Productions
- Johns Hopkins University
- Kartaivia Agnew, Author
- Lou Schwartzkopf
- Minnesota Department of Administration
- Nicollet County Historical Society
- Raymond Ganey
- Rural Advantage
- Scholastic—Karen Wendlandt
- Wyly Books

Lake Crystal Public Library, Lake Crystal

- Wyly Books

Lake Crystal Public Library, Lake Crystal

- Wyly Books

Events

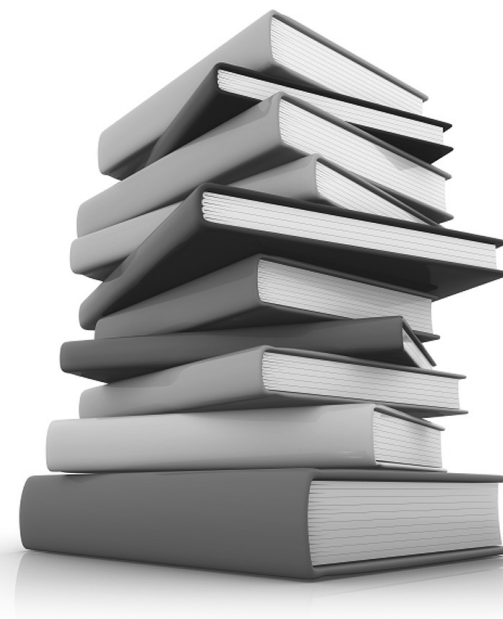
Blue Earth County Library, Mankato

- HickoryTech Grant for Science Museum of MN

Promotions

Blue Earth County Library System

- KEYC TV—Read More About It
- New Country Minnesota 93—Radio Spots



**Thank you to all the generous sponsors
of the libraries in Mankato, Lake Crystal
and Mapleton communities.**

If you are interested in making a donation to support the libraries, please contact Sandi Braun at 304-4002.

OverDrive

Help our library **WIN!**

Download eBooks from your library!

If you're looking for a title that we don't currently have, recommend it to the library or buy it now!*

Look for information about your favorite authors and library events!

*A portion of the proceeds goes to your library

Support your library with just one click. [Recommend](#) or [BUY IT NOW](#)

<http://tds.lib.overdrive.com>

Subsidized Apartments Available for Rent



HUMAN SERVICES

Apartments are available for rent at Pioneer Plaza located at 613 7th St. in Madison Lake and Eastview Apartments at 706 E. Main St. in Mapleton.

The two properties have subsidized one bedroom apartments for rent. Both complexes feature updated community rooms and were recently remodeled, including updates such as new furnishings and landscaping.

To learn more about the units or to apply please contact Roxanne at 387-8612. Please note that references are required as part of the application process.



Utilizing Technology to Provide a New Resource for Child Support Modification



In late 2009, County and State entities came together on a collaborative project to more effectively educate those seeking information regarding child support. Staff from Blue Earth County Human Services Child Support Office, Blue Earth County Court Administration and MN Self-Help Center Staff Attorneys partnered to facilitate Child Support Workshops via satellite to participants.

The workshops have proven to be extremely successful through providing participants with pro se modification paperwork and offering line by line instruction from MN Self-Help Center staff attorneys (via satellite) to help complete paperwork correctly. Motions, supporting affidavits/financial statements, service documents, and fee waiver forms are covered in the program.

Project partners initiated the program with a few pilot sessions to better determine the need of such workshops and to gauge which topics would be most helpful for participants. A schedule was then developed for sessions to be held every other month. Sessions have continued to grow in popularity and additional Counties including Faribault, Martin and Rock have participated.

“Many participants have expressed gratitude for the opportunity to benefit from the workshops. With this new tool as a guide, we are hopeful more people will be able to access the information and complete the documents at their own pace,” stated Lisa Alitz, Child Support Officer, Blue Earth County.

An early goal of the program was to develop a way for individuals to access child support information more readily. Feedback has indicated that participants would be interested in a prerecorded video version of the workshop that would be available 24/7 and could serve a greater number of individuals. A live web version of the workshop was developed and is now available to individuals via this link; www.mncourts.gov/childsupportvideos.

The new web version of the workshop offers a six part series and allows individuals to view selected or all of the segments. Allowing users to choose segments not only allows flexibility for the individual, but also allows staff to update content as forms and information change without having to recreate an entire video. As always, participants have access to the Self-Help Center Attorney’s Office during regular business hours for any additional questions they may have.

Staff across the partner agencies are hopeful this tool will create even greater access to information and be used by individuals who may have transportation issues, work commitments, child care and other conflicts that may prevent them from attending a workshop at a designated time or location. The web version also benefits agencies by freeing up staff time and costs associated to hosting a multitude of workshops. Blue Earth County will continue to spread the word about the program with the hope that more and more people are able to utilize and take advantage of this exciting new resource. ■

Foster Care in Blue Earth County

At any given time, Blue Earth County Child and Family Services serves approximately 300 children and families in the area. One service that is sometimes provided to families is foster care. Foster care is needed because of safety issues in the home due to a child maltreatment issue or because of a child’s special needs related to mental health, behavior, or chemical dependency needs.

Foster parents are provided with daily pay (based on the needs of the child) and also have the ongoing support of the child’s local case manager. Daily rate of pay is generally between \$25-\$50/day. Children may stay with a foster family for up to one year. Foster parents may express a preference for the type of care they are able to provide (short vs. long term, infants or teenagers, etc.) and can refuse a placement. Just like any child, needs vary from one child to the next. They may be scared, anxious, angry, or may have issues with chemical dependency or inappropriate sexual behavior. In those cases, the agency works extra closely with the foster family to support them and provide additional training as necessary. Sometimes children are placed into foster care with their siblings, and in rare cases, they are placed separately from siblings for safety reasons.



To qualify for foster care, families must live in a home or apartment that can pass a fire marshal and physical safety inspection. Anyone over age 21 can be a foster parent, and Blue Earth County welcomes providers of any age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religion. Foster parents are not required to be “stay at home” parents, and Blue Earth County may assist with day care expenses if applicable. While children are in foster care, all of their medical and dental costs are paid for, but foster parents may be asked to attend appointments to determine a course of care.

Foster parents are also often asked to support reunification with family. Reunification is a court monitored process whereby the child’s original care provider works with the county in an effort to change and ensure the child’s safety in the home upon return. Foster parents may also welcome the presence of county workers and other service providers in their home, and may be asked to help support the child via therapy or other specialized services as determined by the county worker. In some situations adoption may also be an option for the foster parents.

Overall, the most important thing for a foster parent is to be a fun, loving, supportive, understanding and happy presence in the life of a child. Foster parenting can be rewarding, challenging, and can help change lives.

If you are interested in more information about becoming a licensed foster care provider, please call Joanna at 304-4167 or Michelle at 304-4273.

SERVING YOU



Drew Campbell, Vice Chair

District 1 Commissioner
P.O. Box 1283
Mankato, MN 56002-1283
387-2408 (H) / 304-4282 (O)
drew.campbell@co.blue-earth.mn.us



Vance Stuehrenberg

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2316 East Main St.
Mankato, MN 56001
388-8129 (H) / 317-3942 (C)
vances@co.blue-earth.mn.us



Mark Piepho, Chair

District 3 Commissioner
8 Skyline Drive
Mankato, MN 56001
345-4380 (H) / 327-4161 (C)
mark.piepho@co.blue-earth.mn.us



Will Purvis

District 4 Commissioner
52298 140th Lane
Vernon Center, MN 56090
549-3420 (H) / 317-5465 (C)
will.purvis@co.blue-earth.mn.us



Kip Bruender

District 5 Commissioner
204 Joan Lane
Eagle Lake, MN 56024
257-2116 (H) / 382-2440 (C)
kip.bruender@co.blue-earth.mn.us



Brad Peterson, Sheriff

Blue Earth County Justice Center
401 Carver Rd.
Mankato, MN 56001
304-4800
brad.peterson@co.blue-earth.mn.us



Ross Arneson, County Attorney

Blue Earth County Justice Center
401 Carver Rd.
Mankato, MN 56001
304-4600



Bob Meyer, County Administrator

Blue Earth County Historic Courthouse
204 S. Fifth St.
Mankato, MN 56001
304-4235
bob.meyer@co.blue-earth.mn.us

Board Information

The Blue Earth County Board generally meets every other Tuesday in the Boardroom at the Blue Earth County Historic Courthouse, 204 South Fifth Street, Mankato. For specific dates and times visit:

www.co.blue-earth.mn.us/board/schedule.php

Citizens who wish to address the Board of Commissioners at a meeting must contact the County Administrator at 304-4284 before noon Thursday preceding the Board meeting. This is needed to manage the Board's schedule. The Board will not take action at the time of the presentation, but will direct County staff to respond appropriately to issues raised by citizens.

Write Now!

Write & Tell Us What You Think.

The Blue Earth County Board of Commissioners and other officials are committed to providing quality service to our residents. Responding to your concerns and needs is a priority.

Please fill out the information below and leave it with a receptionist at any County office, or mail it at your convenience to:

Blue Earth County Public Information

P.O. Box 8608
Mankato, MN 56002-8608
or e-mail info@co.blue-earth.mn.us

With which County department did you have contact?

Please Evaluate: Excellent Good Poor

Courtesy of employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knowledge of employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timeliness of service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Value of service provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I would like County officials to know:

I have a suggestion:

If you want us to respond to your comments:

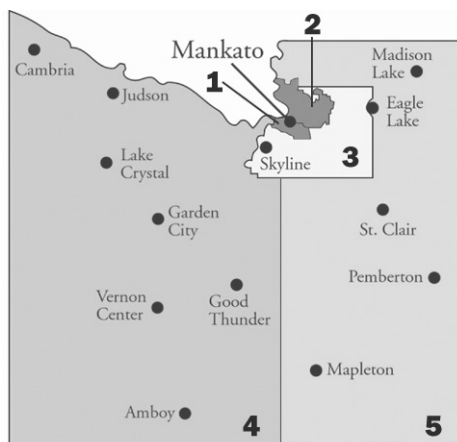
Name:

Address:

Daytime Phone:

**Thank you for your feedback.
We appreciate your comments so
we can serve you better!**

Blue Earth County COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS



SERVICE DIRECTORY



**Blue Earth County
Justice Center**
401 Carver Rd., Mankato



**Blue Earth County
Historic Courthouse**
204 S. Fifth St., Mankato



**County
Government Center**
410 S. Fifth St., Mankato

**Probation
1st Floor 304-4750**

Restitution/Restorative Justice
Adult & Juvenile Probation, Parole, Supervised
Release and Diversion
Pre-trial Services/Bail Evaluation
Community Work Service Programs

County Sheriff /Emergency Services

1st Floor 304-4800

Burning Permits
Civil Process Office
Request a Crime Report
Report a Crime

5th Judicial District Court

2nd Floor 304-4650

Traffic Tickets
Small Claims Court
Civil and Criminal Court

County Attorney

2nd Floor 304-4600



**Public Works
Department**
35 Map Dr., Mankato

Roads & Bridges 304-4025

Road/Bridge Construction & Inspection
Permits: Driveway, Overweight/Size Loads, Utility
Culvert Sales
Swing-away Mailbox Mounts
Calcium Chloride for Dust Control
Park & Trail System 304-4025
Camping & Shelter Reservations
Firewood Sales & Boat Rental
Agricultural Inspection 304-4025
Weed Control & Seed Testing

**Physical Plant/Safety
Lower Level 304-4249**

Finance

Lower Level 304-4182

Taxpayer Services – Property Information/Passports

1st Floor 304-4251

Property Assessment & Tax Collection
Abstracts/Certificates for Registered Land
Mapping
Ditch Management
Passports

Administration

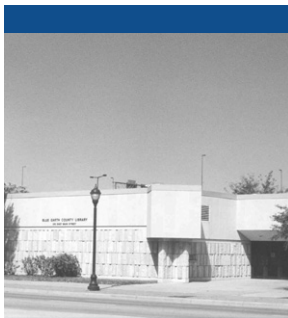
2nd Floor 304-4284

Human Resources 304-4288
Public Information 304-4491

U of M Extension

3rd Floor 304-4325

Agriculture 304-4143
4-H/Youth Development 304-4142
Horticulture 304-4146
Misc. Program Areas 304-4326
Nutrition Education Program 304-4141



**Blue Earth County
Library**
100 E. Main St., Mankato

General Services 304-4001
Children's & Young Adult Services 304-4020
Adult & Reference Services 304-4022
Fines & Renewals 304-4010
Meeting Room Reservations 304-4002
Bookmobile 345-5120
Administration 304-4002
Mapleton Public Library 524-3513
Lake Crystal Public Library 726-2726

**Taxpayer Services – License Center/Elections
Lower Level 304-4340**

Driver's Licenses
Motor Vehicle/Boat Registration
Fishing/Hunting Licenses
Birth/Death Certificates
Marriage Licenses
Voter Registration/Absentee Ballots
Filing of Notaries

Veterans Services

Lower Level 304-4246

Federal & State Benefits
Transportation to VA Hospital

Information Technology

Lower Level 304-4204

Human Services

1st/2nd/3rd Floors

Main Line 304-4222
Financial Assistance 304-4335
Social Services 304-4319
Community Health 304-4319
Mental Health Center 304-4319
Child Protection/Intake 304-4444
Child Support 304-4166

Environmental Services

3rd Floor 304-4381

Planning & Zoning
Building & Feedlot Permits
Shorelands/Flood Plains
Water Wells/Septic Systems/Wetlands
Recycling Center/Compost Site/Landfill
Household Hazardous Waste Center
911/Rural Addressing

Serving Citizens Through County Government

Other County Facilities/Numbers

Household Hazardous Waste Facility
651 Summit Ave., Mankato, 304-4242

Ponderosa Landfill
20028 Gooseberry Lane, Mankato, 625-7301

Recycling Center
741 Waseca Ave., LeHillier, 345-4255

24-Hour Waste and Recycling Hotline, 304-4242
County TTY/TDD (Hearing Impaired), 304-4399



**BLUE EARTH
COUNTY**

visit us online:
www.co.blue-earth.mn.us